

Amendment to the Drawings

In response to the objection to the drawings, Applicant submits a replacement sheet 1, designated "Replacement Sheet," having an amended Fig. 1 showing a "Prior Art" designation.

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed June 13, 2005, the drawings are objected to for failing to label Fig. 1 as "Prior Art" on sheet one of the drawings. Applicant has submitted a replacement sheet 1 in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestion. Claim 6 is objected to for incorrectly referring to claim 4, and has been amended to refer to claim 5 to correct this minor inadvertent clerical error in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Claims 1- 3 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Peratoner (U.S. Patent 6,570,492). Claim 4 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being anticipated by Peratoner in view of admitted prior art. Claims 5- 6 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Measor (US 2001/0007577). Finally, claims 7- 8 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being anticipated by Lippett (EP 0 996 262) in view of Measor. Because each independent claim is rejected based upon a different combination of references, Applicant will address each independent claim separately.

Independent Claim 1

In response to the rejection of claims 1- 3 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Peratoner, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to indicate that the master transceiver performs channel bonding operations "to align data." Independent claim 1 is directed to a system for coordinating channel bonding operations of a plurality of transceivers. As set forth in the specification, for example in paragraphs [0003] and [0004], channel bonding refers to an alignment process for data routed through a plurality of transceivers or transmitters. For example, a word may be split into a plurality of bytes, with each byte sent over a separate transceiver.

In contrast, Peratoner relates to an electronic retail pricing system having no relationship to coordinating channel bonding operations of a plurality of transceivers. A master controller of Peratoner is coupled to a plurality of slave controllers. Each slave controller is coupled to a plurality of electronic price tags. A slave controller having an address matching the address associated with the data being sent by the master controller will generate a location enable signal for one of a plurality of price tag modules. For example, if the address of a slave module matches the address

associated with data sent from the master controller, a decoder of the slave module will generate module location enable signal associated with one of the electronic price tags (based upon module location data from the master controller). Accordingly, the master controller will send data intended for a given electronic price tag associated with one or more slave modules. However, there is no teaching or suggestion that the system of Peratoner coordinates channel bonding operations for aligning data of a plurality of transceivers. In contrast, Peratoner teaches away from claim 1 by teaching a system that sends data blocks which are independent of each other to given locations.

In response to the rejection of claim 4 under 35 USC §103(a) as being anticipated by Peratoner in view of admitted prior art in paragraphs [0003] and [0004] (which is cited for disclosing a buffer for channel bonding operations), Applicant respectfully submits that the claim 4 is allowable for the same reasons that independent claim 1 is believed allowable. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 1 and dependent claims 2-4 in view of the amendment to claim 1 and the remarks.

#### Independent Claim 5

In response to the rejection of claims 5 and 6 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Measor (US 2001/0007577), Applicant has amended independent claim 5 to indicate that the first and second input signals comprise “control signals for aligning data.” Applicant respectfully submits that Measor fails to disclose or suggest the first and second multiplexers as claimed. As can be seen in Fig.1 of Measor, there is no teaching or suggestion that a second multiplexer of Measor is coupled to receive the second input signal (i.e., a signal also coupled to the first multiplexer). In contrast, each multiplexer of Measor receives a different input from the parallel data register. Further, there is no teaching or suggestion in Measor that the apparatus “generates an output signal in response to a first input signal and a second input signal comprising control signals for aligning data.” Applicant respectfully submits that Measor fails to disclose the elements of Applicant’s claims, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claim 5 and dependent claim 6.

Independent Claim 7

In response to the rejection of claims 7- 8 under 35 USC §103(a) as being anticipated by Lippett (EP 0 996 262) in view of Measor, Applicant has amended independent claim 7 to recite first and second devices each having a plurality of transceivers, wherein the plurality of transceivers in the first device is connected to the plurality of transceivers in the second device "which receives control signals for aligning data received from the first device." Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 7 is allowable over a combination of Lippett and Measor for the same reasons that independent claim 5 is allowable over Measor. That is, Measor is cited for disclosing the elements of the transceiver which correspond to the elements of independent claim 5. However, as set forth above with respect to independent claim 5, there is no teaching or suggestion in Measor that a first multiplexer and a second multiplexer are coupled to receive the second input signal as claimed. Further, there is no teaching or suggestion that the second device receives control signals for aligning data received from the first device. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 7 and its independent claim 8.

New Dependent Claims

Applicant has added new claims 9-20. Each of the claims is a dependent claim based upon one of independent claims 1, 5 or 7. Applicant submits that no new matter is added by the new claims.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant submits that the claims as amended are allowable over the cited art and respectfully requests reconsideration.

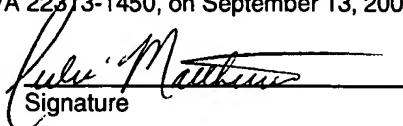
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 13, 2005.

Julie Matthews  
Name

  
Signature